



APRIL 2022

The Griswold Times

GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER

Dear Griswold Public Schools:

As Griswold moves *forward* into the spring, be sure to stay current with the latest news. *Grease* is the word in Wolverine Nation this month. We are all looking forward to the Griswold Drama production of the musical *Grease* in these closing days of April. Griswold Drama productions historically showcase the many talents of our district, our students and staff, and our unique community at large. If you have yet to purchase your tickets, there is still time: Visit the Griswold Drama website [by clicking on this link](#). Don't miss out!

Spring sports are in full swing. We always appreciate the strong efforts of our Griswold athletes, our dedicated coaches, and our supportive families. If you are unable to attend an athletic event to cheer our Wolverines on, be sure to catch the videos available at Griswold Sports Network [by clicking on this link](#).

May marks the month of test administration in most public schools throughout our country. At GES, GMS, and GHS, students will be in different standardized testing situations and supported by our caring and devoted faculty and staff. Please join me in encouraging our students to do their very best by aiming high, by working with their individual teachers, and by believing in themselves.

Be sure to get and stay involved with Griswold Public Schools. There are many wonderful developments in our school community, with various offerings to our students and their families. A great way for families to be involved is to join our always dedicated and remarkable Parent Teacher Organizations. I salute our PTOs for their continued support and amazing efforts throughout the school year. To learn more about each PTO and to get and stay involved, [be sure to click here](#). Getting and staying involved are easy, practical ways to keep Griswold moving *forward*.

Sincerely yours,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent of Schools

DISTRICT NEWS

Athletic Fields & Facilities Update

Funding has been approved by the Griswold Board of Finance for a design plan for the multipurpose track and field behind Griswold High School. Alan Carpenter of CPH Design in Attleboro, MA—who designed Killingly's athletic facilities—will perform the design work in order to move on to the next phase.

The multi-use track and field will include an 8-lane track that would be suitable for state-wide competitions; a new turf field to be used for high school and youth football, soccer and lacrosse; and new, energy-efficient LED Lights that will be outside of the track perimeter and will not obstruct view from the stands.

The existing track and field are in disrepair due to

drainage issues and age, and will first be completely demolished to lay the new track and turf field.

If you would like to support the project or have questions, please reach out to members of the Committee on Campus Athletic Fields Revitalization Project on their Facebook page facebook.com/CCA FRP.

Hear more about the project from Superintendent McKenna and Teaching, Learning & Innovation Director Glenn LaBossiere on [SNSN Radio's Facebook page](#).

Donations to the project can be made securely [online here](#), or checks can be mailed to the Griswold Public Schools Business Office at 211 Slater Ave, Griswold, CT 06351, and should be made out to 'Town of Griswold' with 'Turf Field' as the memo. Thanks for your support!

(DISTRICT NEWS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

Let's Get Social:



Griswold Public Schools



@griswoldschools



griswoldpublicschools.org

DISTRICT NEWS

APRIL 2022 GRISWOLD FORWARD VLOG:

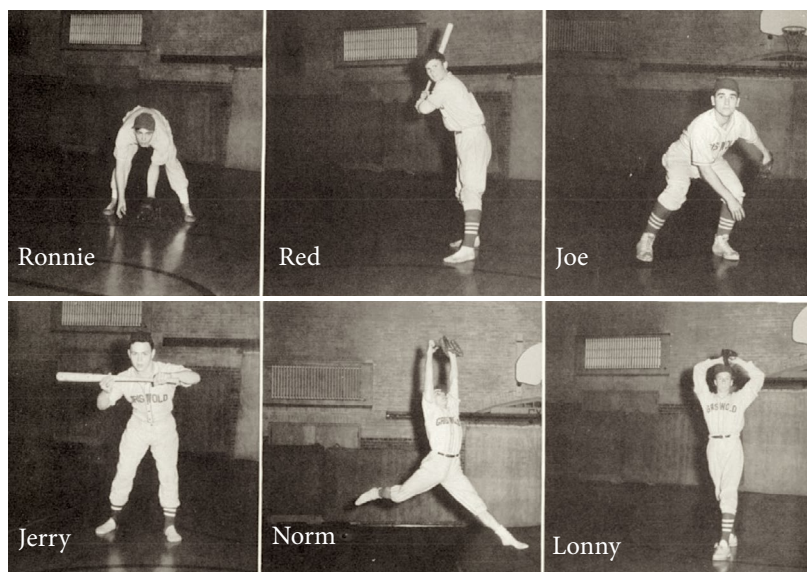
In 2022, there are many ways people get their news, especially online. At Griswold Public Schools, there are quite a few GPS-related social media pages, as well as griswoldpublicschools.org, Infinite Campus, and a handful of Google Sites. If you manage any channels, here's a few best practices for social media and websites from GPS Community Relations & Special Projects Coordinator Kayla Hedman. She also showcases the District's new Brand Standards for design later in the video. Watch now at https://bit.ly/april_griswoldforward.

Do you manage a Griswold Public Schools-related Facebook page, Instagram or Twitter account, or a website? (i.e. athletics, club, PTO, etc.) If so, please fill out this survey: <https://forms.gle/L3PW3dNxprAKqXD9>

New GPS Brand Standards

The Board of Education approved brand standards for Griswold Public Schools in Dec. 2021. The standards include the official GPS logo, color palette, fonts, and other elements of the district's identity suite. The assets and guidelines will help maintain consistency across GPS materials. The Standards PDF and link to assets can be found at griswold.k12.ct.us/resources/brand-standards

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Members of the 1954 Griswold High School Baseball Team posing for individual photos. (Source: GHS 1954 Yearbook, GHS Learning Commons & [Classmates.com](https://www.classmates.com))
View many GHS Yearbooks 1937-2000 at [Classmates.com](https://www.classmates.com).

NOW HIRING:

GPS is hiring for the following positions (as of 4/18/22):

- Teachers: Grade 4 Math (GES), History & Social Studies (GHS), Grade 6 Language Arts (GMS), General Music & Chorus (GMS)
- Long-term Substitute: Grade 4 Teacher (could turn FT in 2022/23)
- GHS Baseball Varsity Assistant Coach & JV Coach
- Tutors for B&A School Program
- Paraeducators (Part-Time)
- Custodian, 2nd Shift
- Temporary Custodians (Part-Time)
- Print Shop Coordinator (Part-Time)
- Substitutes: Teachers, Paraeducators, Cafe Service Providers, Custodians, Health Assistants, Nurses

Find all open positions at applitrack.com/griswold/onlineapp/

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Students ages 15+: Are you interested in working this summer? Summer Youth Employment is an amazing opportunity for ALL students to apply to work 100-140 hours this summer at minimum wage. Applications are available in the GHS Main Office and school counseling office. Placements include partnerships with summer rec, summer school, Little Log, DEEP, town hall, senior center, and library. For other jobs, [working papers](#) for students ages 14-17 are available at the GHS Office.

HONORS&AWARDS

Congratulations to GPS's Social-Emotional Interventionists Sheila DePonte (GHS), Terry Cholewa (GMS), and Chelsea Lipp (GES) for being selected as the district's Outstanding Employees for the 3rd Quarter!

GPS is also pleased to honor the GES faculty involved with the Preschool NAEYC re-accreditation: Stephanie Cote, Annette Costanzo, Jennifer Upton-Pepin, and Melissa Brady.

All were recognized at the Board of Education meeting on April 11.



UPCOMING EVENTS

GHS Spring Musical

April 27-30 at 7:00pm

Tickets on sale at

griswolddrama.com

7th & 8th Grade Fun Night

Friday, April 29

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 2-6

Griswold Cafeteria Workers & Custodians Appreciation Day

May 6

GMS Spring Concerts

6th Grade, May 4, 6:30pm

7th/8th Grades, May 11, 6/7:30pm

Board of Education Meeting

Monday, May 9, 6:00pm, GMS Cafe

School Nurse Appreciation Day

May 11

GMS PTO Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2:30pm,

GMS Main Office Conference Room

GMS National Junior Honor

Society Induction Ceremony

May 18

GMS Exploratory Night/Art Show/ Book Fair

May 19, 6:00pm

GHS Senior BBQ & Prom

May 20 @ The Overlook at Geer's

GHS Spring Pep Rally

Thursday, May 26

GHS Senior Awards Night

Thursday, May 26

GHS Senior Trip to Six Flags NE

Friday, May 27

Memorial Day (NO SCHOOL)

May 30

GMS & GHS Bands playing in Griswold Memorial Day Parade, 9:00am

GPS String Festival

June 1, 7:00pm

GMS 8th Grade Trip to Holiday Hill

June 7

GMS 8th Grade Block Party

June 9

GMS 8th Grade Promotion

June 14, 5:30pm, GHS Football Field

GHS Class of 2022 Graduation

June 15, 5:30pm, GHS Football Field

ATHLETICS

Live stream home games on

[Griswold Sports Network's](#)

[YouTube Channel](#).



Thank you to Lou Demicco of Jewett City Greenhouse and Jewett City Savings Bank for their generous donation to fund new Baseball uniforms incorporating Griswold's new brand standards.



GHS's new Varsity Baseball coach, Bill Kane '95 was interviewed by the [Norwich Bulletin on April 15; read the story here](#).

Visit eccathletics.org/griswold for the GHS and GMS Spring Sports schedules for Baseball, Softball, Outdoor Track, Golf, Girls & Boys Lacrosse.

GHS Cheerleading Tryouts are to be held June 7-9 so the team can attend Cheer Summer Camp. Students must have a current physical in order to tryout. Incoming GHS freshmen for the 2022-23 school year are able to tryout as well. Follow [@griswoldhscheer on Instagram](#) for more info!

Congratulations to GHS Wrestling Coach Dana Cooke, who was selected as a CT High School Coaches Association's Coach of the Year! Cooke was also awarded Coach of the Year in 2019.

The Griswold Booster Club is highlighting **GHS Athletes of the Week:**

April 4-10:

Cam Williams (Freshman, Softball) *shows great leadership on the field and made amazing catches in centerfield during the season opening win against Stonington.*

Logan Benoit (Senior, Outdoor Track) *placed 1st at the dual meet vs. Montville in Javelin, and 2nd in the 110m and 300m Hurdles. At the Wild Cat Relays Invitational, Logan lead his Javelin relay to first place, breaking the meet record with a throw of 141' 2", and was part of the throwers 4x1 which took 2nd place.*

April 11-17:

Evan Gilgenbach (Senior, Baseball) *pitched 5.2 innings with 10 strikeouts to beat Plainfield 8-2. Evan also went 1-1 with 3 walks and 2 runs scored.*

Sienna Caron (Freshman, Lacrosse) *lead with strong defense against Killingly. Sienna continues to lead by example both on and off the field.*

April 17-24:

Kinkade Rubino (Sophomore, Baseball) *has been an example what every coach would want in a player for any sport. He does what he is asked and gives 100% every time he steps on the field! His stats last week were - 3 to 6 with 3 run scored, 2RBIs, 4 stolen bases.*

Kuranda Ruiggerio (Junior, Lacrosse) *is a tremendous athlete and is such a joy to work with. She works so hard on the field, and, once again, had a special night where she scored 6 goals and had a whopping 9 draw controls at home versus St. Bernard's!*

Follow the **Griswold Boosters Club** on Facebook for more sports news!



The Griswold High School Weight Room, located in the Aux. Gym, has recently received a face-lift with new and improved exercise equipment for student-athletes.

GHS NEWS

Grease is the word! After a two-year unwanted hiatus, GHS presents *Grease* as the spring musical on April 27, 28, 29, 30 at 7pm. Purchase tickets at griswolddrama.com.

Kayla Hedman, GHS Class of 2010, compiled a **video of members of Griswold's 2007 and 1987 casts of Grease**, and some very special guests, to share with the 2022 cast during a tech rehearsal earlier this month. [Watch the video here.](#)

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On April 15, 109 GHS students ventured to Boston for a modified Music Trip! Students visited the New England Aquarium, Quincy Market, took a Duck Boat Tour of the City, and got to see The Red Sox take on the Minnesota Twins for Opening Day at Fenway Park—a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

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Students love Activity Period on Friday afternoons! Check out some of the activities students can pick from in this [video on @griswoldschools Instagram](#).

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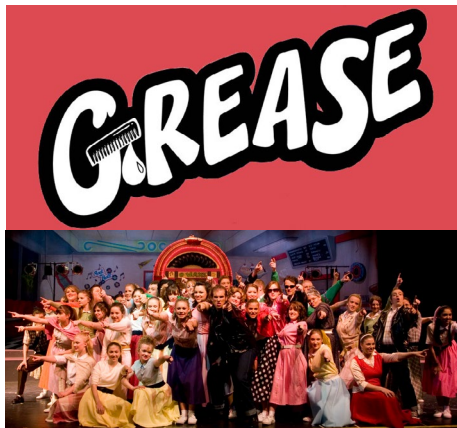
Just For Fun! Peter Parker or Principal Palonen? GHS celebrated Spirit Week ahead of Spring Break. Superhero Day was a big hit!

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Fundraisers:

The Student Leadership Council has been selling “Stand with Ukraine” bracelets to benefit World Central Kitchen, an organization that is providing meals to Ukrainian refugees in Eastern Europe. So far, they've raised over \$800.

#nicksride: Help senior Nick Guile's family purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle. [Meet Nick, who has Cerebral Palsy, here \(VIDEO\)](#). Please consider donating to one of two GoFundMe campaigns: 1) [Help Nick Get A Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle](#) 2) Teacher Brian Browne is challenging people to donate to [this GoFundMe](#) for the chance to win “The World's Oldest PB&J Sandwich” from 1994 – at least 10 year's older than Nick himself!



above: GHS's 2007 cast of Grease, some of which are featured in a video for the 2022 cast



Congratulations to Jenna Wesa and Aryssa Smith, GHS recipients of the CAS *Performing and Visual Arts Award*!

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Adria Meadvin, Lindsey Arnold, and Michaela Souza entered the *UConn Letters About Literature Contest* by writing letters to their favorite authors, explaining how their books made a difference in their lives. Adria's letter to Eliot Schreier for the book, *The Darkness Outside Us*, was selected as an honorable mention, beating hundreds of other submissions from all over CT.

AWARDS & HONORS



The Nexus advanced-technology lab has been making nation-wide news again as one of the “[Top 10 Esports and Gaming Labs in the Country](#),” (VIDEO) by the High School Esports League. Just before Spring Break, [Kevin Hogan from WFSB \(Channel 3\) stopped by The Nexus \(VIDEO\)](#).

Additionally, GHS Esports co-coaches Jim Rand and Kyle Gunderman, as well as freshman Josh Harrington, were interviewed by esports host Bubba Gaeddert. [Watch here.](#)

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Congratulations to Jakob Skipper, GHS's [Voice4Change](#) winner (photo at left). Jakob's proposal was first accepted by the State, followed by a school-wide vote on March 29 on the final three (also including excellent proposals by Lain Whalen and Sydney Hart). Jakob's innovative idea for how to spend \$20,000 of American Rescue Plan Emergency Relief funding at GHS focuses on social-emotional and mental health for students.

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Earlier this year, students in Mrs. Baker's advanced drawing class created portraits of children in Nigeria as part of [The Memory Project](#). The portraits were recently delivered to Nigeria; [watch the recipients' reactions here](#).

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Congratulations to Noelle Christie for placing third in CT for the VFW's [Voice of Democracy Contest](#)!

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Congratulations to the *March GHS Students of the Month*: Elijah Raymond, Levi Scantleberry, Liz Turner, Mason Williams, Neera Jackson, Savana Botelho, and Tim O'Brien. These students have shown growth or demonstrated excellence in perseverance, listening with empathy and understanding, managing impulsiveness, and thinking flexibly.

GMS NEWS

Exploratories: Join us for the **Griswold Middle School Spring Concerts!** The last time GMS held in-person concerts was in December 2019. Students have been working hard in preparation, and are so excited to perform for you all! Both concerts will take place at the Griswold High School Auditorium to accommodate more people.

Grade 6: Wednesday, May 4, at 6:30pm

Featuring 6th Grade Band, Chorus, and String Orchestra

Grades 7 & 8: Wednesday, May 11, at 6:30pm

Featuring 5 groups: 7th Grade Band, 8th Band, 7th/8th Chorus, 7th/8th Select Choir, and 7th/8th String Orchestra

The Exploratory Team is putting on an **Exploratory Night, Art Show, and Scholastic BOGO Book Fair on May 19 at 6:00pm.** Come out to see students' recent work in Art, Health, Technology Education, Physical Education, Music, and Spanish!

Exploratory teachers Mr. Butremovic and Mrs. LaBossiere advise the **GMS Morning Announcements.** Each morning, the video production crew meets to produce the live show streamed throughout the school. It takes a lot of work to produce this each day and the students do a fantastic job!

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CREW News: Mrs. Cholewa's 8th grade CREW organized a **Breakfast Cereal Drive** March 7 - April 7 to benefit the St. Mary's Food Pantry in Jewett City. They were able to collect 311 boxes of donated cereal! Watch their fun "Chain Reaction" activity with 5th graders to showcase how kindness gets passed on in a [video on the @griswoldschools Instagram here](#).

CREW (Caring, Respectful, Empowered Wolverines) is GMS's Social-Emotional Learning program for all students. CREW meets weekly throughout the school year to build relationships and create a supportive school community.

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Charitable Donations and Fundraising:

Through April 14, 2022, GMS raised over \$1,600 for the **Kids Heart Challenge**, which culminated in the physical challenge on April 14, and a fun volleyball tournament versus GMS Staff ([watch the video on @griswoldschools Instagram here](#)). The student team, "The Aidens" won the tournament against Vice Principal Mr. Parkinson's team.

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PTO News:

The GMS PTO is pleased to announce a \$1,000 **donation from Surrrell's Pizza** to benefit autistic students in grades 5-8. Bert and Abigail Surrrell visited the school to present students with iPads and Legos. [Watch the video here](#).

The PTO hosts an annual snack cart and raffle during **Teacher Appreciation Week**, May 2-6. Please help the PTO honor every GMS teacher by purchasing something from their [Amazon wishlist](#) or making a monetary donation to the GMS PTO.

There are two fundraisers coming up: Skate Night on May 3rd from 5-7pm at Skate Inn in Plainfield, and a 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament for GMS students on Sunday, May 15.

[More GMS News can be found online on the GMS Now blog!](#)



Above: 6th grade Chorus and a group of 6th graders with members of the GHS string orchestra in preparation for spring concerts and String Fest, June 1.



Above: Cereal boxes collected for St. Mary's Food Pantry; Self-portraits by GMS Art Teacher Erin Wraichette's CREW.

Below: The GMS PTO presents Bert & Abigail Surrrell with a plaque for their donation.



GES NEWS

Mrs. Parkinson and Ms. Federico hosted a **Writer's Museum** in their 4th-grade classrooms on April 14 so that students could share their State projects with others!

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GES plans to have a small **Art Show** Monday, May 9, through Wednesday, May 11, from 4:00-6:00pm in the GES Library. Each grade has worked on completing one masterpiece inspired by the "Dessert Painter," Wayne Thiebaud. The GES PTO will also be hosting a **Bake Sale** right outside the library during the art show, so you can admire the dessert artwork and then delight in some real desserts after!

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Charitable Donations and Fundraising:

At the POP! (Power of Purpose) Step it Up fundraiser, GES collected over \$20,000 via donations from parents, families, and friends. Portions of the funds will be used for the installation of new playground equipment, future field trips and assemblies, and student enrichment products.

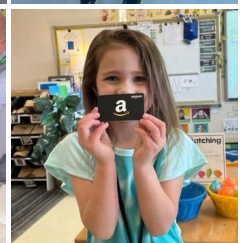
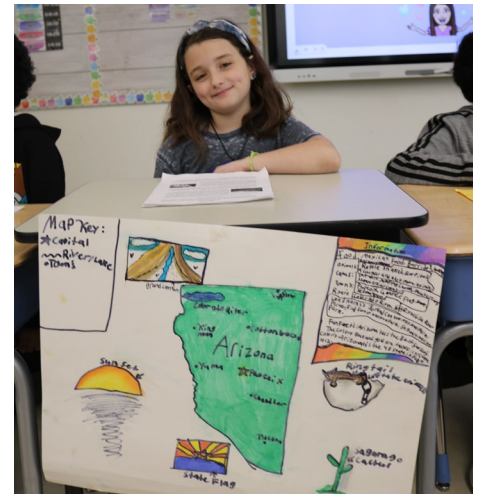
Students were so excited to participate in the Day of Awesomeness DJ Party and other prize incentives! Students whose families sent out 10 or more emails/texts to their Personal Donation Pages qualified for a Golden Ticket to win one of four mini-fridges stuffed with cash or an Amazon Gift Card. Students who collected \$50+ in donations received awesome prizes as well.

Thank you to the greater-GES community for your generosity! We're excited to install the new playground equipment and get planning programming for the 2022-23 school year!

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PTO News:

The GES PTO is collecting goodies to stock the teachers lounge for **Teacher Appreciation Week**, May 2-6. Please consider purchasing something from their [Amazon Wishlist](#) or making a monetary donation to the GES PTO.



WOLVERINES FORWARD NEWS

Wolverines Forward (WF) is a Before & After School Program for students in grades K-8 that started in the fall of 2021. The program is now serving 61 students in the morning, and 75 students in the afternoon.

As the weather gets nicer, WF has been spending more time outdoors with students! Kindergartners and 1st graders are exploring rainbows and springtime flowers with science and art projects; 2nd graders have started a gardening unit, discovered the importance of bees, and explored ecosystems; 3rd and 4th graders are focusing on cultural exploration of South America and European countries. Our GMS students are using recycled materials to make multiple science and art projects, including jewelry. The A.M. program is continuing to offer rotating free choice center activities along with beautiful spring-themed crafts.

[Learn more about Wolverines Forward on their Google Site.](#)





GRISWOLD FORWARD

OUR MISSION

Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by ensuring our students are connected, by nurturing individual student talents, and by fostering a future-focused mindset.

OUR VISION

Graduates of Griswold Public Schools journey into the future as engaged citizens, effective communicators, critical thinkers, and resilient problem solvers.

DISTRICT GOALS

District Goal #1: Social and Emotional Learning

Griswold Public Schools commits to the advancement of social and emotional competencies in inclusive and equitable learning environments so that all of our students can grow and thrive.

District Goal #2: Blended and Personalized Learning

Griswold Public Schools will focus on promoting the implementation and expansion of Blended and Personalized Learning in all PreK-12 learning environments.

District Goal #3: Research-Based Instruction

Griswold Public Schools will explore and implement research-based instruction to improve outcomes for all Griswold students.